

EXHIBIT 247

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Date : 1/17/2017 5:46:54 PM

From : "Everett Barnes"

To : "sharon.mccollum@doe.vi" , "cecile [REDACTED]"

Subject : Introduction; DOE Public Private Partnerships

Attachment : image001.png;

Commissioner, thank you for this introduction. Ms. deJongh, it is a pleasure to meet you and look forward to working with you in advancing the VIDE Public/Private Partnership. I have a colleague preparing a list of the most active foundations supporting education and initiatives related to the Commissioner's and Governor's priorities. As you are aware, most foundations do not release Requests for Proposals. They tend to follow processes where they "invite" select individuals or entities to do brief presentations of their ideas/vision and then work as partners to flesh out those ideas. That means that typically they either know who you are or you know who in the foundation to reach out to. There are two critical elements that need to be in place: 1.) before we [VI/RMC] do anything we need a clear, concise and compelling vision that articulates exactly what the VI plans to do. That needs to come from critical stakeholders and influencers in VI and not from "outsiders", like RMC; 2.) we will need "influencers", like Mr. Epstien and others, who can open the doors and get the Commissioner an audience. I am afraid this is going to be a long process. I have suggested to the Commissioner that after the VI vision is completed we should look at the possibility of "re-aligning" existing federal dollars to begin key initiatives and then look at what is available through competitive grants and foundations. It would be wonderful if we could build a small core group of "influencers" who have a personal commitment to the VI and who would be willing to provide some resources to get some initiatives off the ground without all the politics and bureaucracy associated with govt. or foundation funding. Look forward to meeting you in person soon. You have my e-mail. My office number is [REDACTED] My cell is [REDACTED] Reach out at any time.

Education, beyond all other devices of human creation, is the greatest equalizer of the conditions of Man.—Horace Mann, 1848

From: McCollum, Sharon [<mailto:sharon.mccollum@doe.vi>]

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:40 PM

To: Everett Barnes; cecile [REDACTED]

Cc: ccolesti [REDACTED]

Subject: Introduction; DOE Public Private Partnerships

Good afternoon Mrs. deJongh and Mr. Barnes:

Please allow me to introduce the two of you via email.

I have spoken to Mrs. deJongh regarding the assistance RMC will be giving the Department of Education in moving forward in building our public/private partnerships.

Our desire is to create targeted goals that can benefit both the Department of Education and the Territory. I have asked Mrs. deJongh to include her employer, Jeffery Epstien, in reviewing a list of potential donors to see if he is familiar with individuals to facilitate "inside" contacts.

RMC will supply a list of possible contacts for review.

We are planning a meeting, February 19, 2017, to bring to the table all parties that can assist DOE with making this vision a reality.

Everett Barnes [REDACTED]

Cecile deJongh [REDACTED]

Regards,

Sharon Ann McCollum, Ph.D.

Commissioner

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